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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/589,760

08/17/2006

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HOS 76

9502

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04/08/2010

EXAMINER

CHIN, RANDALL E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3723

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/08/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/589,760	Applicant(s) YAMADA, KIKUO	
	Examiner Randall Chin	Art Unit 3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 15-19 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19, 21 and 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 15-18, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>081706;011209;061609</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I (apparatus) and the Species of Fig. 8, claims 1-6, 15-18, 23 and 24, in the reply filed on 12 February 2010 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 19, 21 and 22 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12 February 2010.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because in Fig. 3B, it is suggested to incorporate a bracket around both parts of this figure for clarity. Applicant is also respectfully requested to review whether the two parts shown for Fig. 3B are merely duplicative of one another (note also, that the Brief Description of the Drawings for Fig. 3B recites "Fig. 3B is a plan view of **a brush sheet...**"). Also, in Fig. 6, it is suggested to incorporate a bracket around both parts of this figure for clarity.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

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replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The specification is replete with grammatical errors too numerous to mention specifically and Applicant’s cooperation is respectfully requested in reviewing the entire specification for compliance on these matters. Some examples are:

On p. 2, line 14, “while the number of process required...” is awkwardly written.

On p. 11, lines 11-12, "...can be used a hand mop".

On p. 27, line 10, “permeate” should read –permeates--.

On p. 27, line 12, before “the uppermost”, insert –are--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-6, 15-18, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka 6,968,591 (hereinafter Tanaka).

As for claim 1, Tanaka discloses in Figs. 1 and 2, for example, a cleaning device 10 comprising a base material sheet 5 and a fiber bundle 6 comprising a large number of fibers aligned in a longitudinal direction and having a bundling portion at all-layer join line 7 connecting the fibers at a center portion thereof along a direction crossing the longitudinal direction of the fibers, wherein the fiber bundle is bonded to the base material sheet by means of an “adhesive” (a broad term here) since it is heat-sealed (col. 5, line 64 to col. 6, line 6), and the fiber bundle 6 is deemed to comprise movable portions which have respectively different lengths between fixed ends and distal ends of the fibers due to inherent uneven, inexact, or infinitesimal discontinuities of the heat-sealing process used to bond the fiber bundle to the base material sheet.

As for claim 2, the adhesive is provided between the base material sheet 5 and the fiber bundle 6, and the adhesive is applied to fibers at different permeation depths of

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the fiber bundle, again, as a result of inherent uneven, inexact, or infinitesimal discontinuities of the heat-sealing process used to bond the fiber bundle to the base material sheet.

As for claim 3, a plurality of "spot-like bonding portions" (a broad recitation here) merely defined at "spots" or portions on/along joining lines 8, 8 joining the base material sheet 5 and the fiber bundle 6 are provided along both opposite sides opposite to the bundling portion 7.

As for claim 4, a bonding portion at joining lines 8, 8 joining the base material sheet 5 and the fiber bundle 6 is provided linearly along both sides opposite to the bundling portion 7 (col. 5, line 64 to col. 6, line 6).

As for claim 5, the base material sheet 5 has a plurality of strips 14 provided along both sides opposite to the bundling portion 7 (Fig. 2).

As for claim 6, the fiber bundle 6 is deemed comprised of a low degree fiber bundle composed of fibers having a low degree of thickness (i.e., closer to all-layer join line 7 in Fig. 2) and a high degree fiber bundle composed of fibers having a high degree of thickness (i.e., farther from all-layer join line 7 in Fig. 2), the low degree fiber bundle and the high degree fiber bundle being stacked together.

As for claim 15, the adhesive used is deemed to be "hot melt type adhesive" (a broad recitation).

As for claim 16, the adhesive contains a coloring agent (col. 6, lines 44-49).

As for claim 17, the base material sheet 5 "has" a handle mounting portion at 20 (Fig. 1).

As for claim 18, the fiber of the fiber bundle 6 is a filament (col. 4, lines 12-23)..

As for claim 23, a holding sheet or brush sheet 1 which has a plurality of bristle-like members 12 is bonded to the fiber bundle 6 at a bristle-like-member-less portion 8, 8 thereof by an "adhesive" (Fig. 1).

As for claim 24, the bristle-like members 12 of the brush sheet 1 have respectively a width larger than a diameter of each of the fibers of the fiber bundle 6 (Figs. 1 and 2).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The reference to Tanaka is pertinent to a cleaning device with a layered sheet arrangement.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randall Chin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1270. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Randall Chin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3723

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